

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A compound composition that comprises combinations of a ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance with a structure-specific substance, wherein the structure-specific substance is such that its Brownian relaxation proceeds faster than its Néelian relaxation under measuring conditions for detection of an analyte or binding reaction by its double refraction behavior or relaxation behavior of double refraction in the composition, and wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance's particle size is 20 to 40 nm.

20. (Currently Amended) A compound composition that comprises combinations of a ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance with a substance that is to be identified, wherein the substance that is to be identified is such that its Brownian relaxation proceeds faster than its Néelian relaxation under measuring conditions for detection of a binding reaction by its double refraction behavior or relaxation behavior of double refraction in the composition, and wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance's particle size is 20 to 40 nm.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A compound composition according to claim 19, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is stabilized with a shell that comprises an oligomeric or polymeric carbohydrate, protein, peptide, nucleotide, surfactant, polymer and/or lipid.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound composition according to claim 19, wherein the structure-specific substance is an antibody, antibody fragment, biotin, a substance that binds biotin, agonist that binds specifically to receptors or their antagonists, peptide,

protein, receptor, enzyme, enzyme substrate, nucleotide, ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, carbohydrate, or lipoprotein.

24-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~composition~~ according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is stabilized with a shell that comprises an oligomeric or polymeric carbohydrate, protein, peptide, nucleotide, surfactant, polymer and/or lipid.

31. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~composition~~ according to claim 20, wherein the substance that is to be identified is an antibody, antibody fragment, biotin, a substance that binds biotin, agonist that binds specifically to receptors or their antagonists, peptide, protein, receptor, enzyme, enzyme substrate, nucleotide, ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, carbohydrate, or lipoprotein.

32. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance's relaxation time in aqueous media is 10^{-8} to 10^{-1} seconds.

33. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is stabilized with a shell that is made of the structure-specific substance.

34. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein the viscosity of the media is matched to the relaxation time of the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance and the measurement time.

35. (New) A suspension containing a plurality of compounds according to claim 19, wherein the particle sizes of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances is such that the moments of the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances is uniform or substantially uniform.

36. (New) A compound according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance's relaxation time in aqueous media is 10^{-8} to 10^{-1} seconds.

37. (New) A compound according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is stabilized with a shell that is made of the structure-specific substance.

38. (New) A compound according to claim 20, wherein the viscosity of the media is matched to the relaxation time of the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance and the measurement time.

39. (New) A suspension containing a plurality of compounds according to claim 20, wherein the particle sizes of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances is such that the moments of the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances is uniform or substantially uniform.

40. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance comprises iron, an iron oxide, a barium ferrite, a strontium ferrite, cobalt, nickel, a nickel ferrite, a cobalt ferrite, or chromium dioxide.

41 (New) A compound according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance comprises iron, an iron oxide, a barium ferrite, a strontium ferrite, cobalt, nickel, a nickel ferrite, a cobalt ferrite, or chromium dioxide.